

6 February 1987
MLD-7009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

FROM : Chief, FBIS London Bureau

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- London Bureau -- January 1987

I. GENERAL

1. The bureau's Internet terminal was inaugurated on 12 January in a champagne, ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the bureau chief prior to the inaugural live transmission of the Moscow Vremya 1530 GMT newscast. Subsequent developments during the month saw the addition of Tripoli TV news to the transmission schedule as well as ad hoc program requests involving editorial coordination with the Internet control staff in Headquarters. Copyright concerns prevented inclusion of British television feeds in the transmission schedule as originally planned.
2. On 20 January the BBCMS completed its 2-week survey of West European C-band TV transmissions using exclusively the 10M ROSET dish. As anticipated, no regularly scheduled domestic newscasts were discovered with the exception of Portuguese news programs which the BBC is currently evaluating for possible coverage. Survey results have been forwarded to Headquarters. A working agreement between the bureau and the BBCMS will allow continued use of the ROSET dish for cruising purposes. Progress in bureau/BBCMS negotiations on providing television signals for Internet transmission awaits a promised BBCMS position paper expected early February.
3. The British Telecommunications engineers strike which began on 26 January has had virtually no impact on bureau communications, although technical coordination with the Internet ground station at Madley was made somewhat difficult by the fact that only managers were staffing the facility. However, cooperation was exemplary and circuit problems short-lived. The nationwide strike over pay continued at month's end with negotiations seemingly deadlocked.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. As the focal point for FBIS/BBC publications exchange and distribution in addition to its own subscriptions, the bureau finally succeeded in compiling a master list of all subscriptions and publications distribution. A listing of all bureau reference materials is also being compiled. Chief, PMU has been designated bureau publication and

reference material officer responsible for maintenance and further refinement of the lists as well as related record keeping.

2. PMU monitors performed yeoman work the morning of 28 January to compare a 43-take Moscow TASS English test and the PRAVDA version of CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's speech to the 27 January party plenum. Five pairs of Russian linguists made short work of the comparison with the PRAVDA version received late the previous evening on pressfax and filed an FYI comparison in time for publication in the 28 January DAILY REPORT.
3. To facilitate coordination and focus responsibility for all aspects of bureau automation, Chief Editor [] was designated bureau automation officer responsible for coordinating all bureau automation efforts, advising bureau management on automation issues, and coordinating with BBC personnel to ensure appropriate interface between BBCMS and FBIS automation projects. Assisting the chief editor are PMU editor [] as Wang system administrator and bureau engineer [] as IBM PC system administrator.

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B. Communications

The bureau received its report card from DCS ASC Croughton on 8 January based on findings of a tributary assistance team which visited on 23 September (September Monthly Report). The team noted that "all maintenance personnel are highly trained and qualified, which contributes to the low maintenance problems," concluding that "personnel were friendly, courteous, and extremely helpful" and that "communication requirements were being accomplished." The team's findings were forwarded to Headquarters.

C. Lateral Services

1. PMU responded quickly to processing requests during the month from the American Embassy in Paris for LE MONDE items on Vietnamese workers in Czechoslovakia and the fullest available version of a speech by President Mitterrand to the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London. Both items were processed and filed priority upon receipt of the newspaper.
2. Responding to an urgent request from the Political Section of the American Embassy in London, the Bureau's administrative office at the Embassy displayed initiative in providing the complete list of new members of the Vietnamese Communist Party Central Committee as published in the BBC's SUMMARY OF WORLD BROADCASTS which the office happened to have available at the time.
3. In addition to responding to legitimate requests for FBIS materials, the Bureau's admin office at the Embassy must

also cope with an average of 10-15 requests from U.S. students in the United Kingdom requesting copies of the DAILY REPORT, including requests from as far away as the University of Amsterdam. All such requests are politely turned down and subscription information offered.

D. Technical

Bureau engineers won editorial praise during the month for their successful efforts in programming changes in the character generator of the Facit 452 printers. This resulted in a more pronounced differentiation between periods and commas in printed copy, which heretofore had caused proofing problems by being virtually indistinguishable.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Confirming the rumor now some 4 months old, the embassy made known during the month that because no wage survey had been funded for the year, no FSN wage increase was to be expected in 1987.
2. PMU Russian media analyst [] returned to part-time duty on 5 January after several months of maternity leave. STAT
3. New teletype operator [] entered on duty 18 January. STAT
4. Teletype operator [] officially transferred to the Tabulation Unit effective 4 January. STAT
5. Acting communications shift supervisors [] and [] were promoted to FBN-8 shift supervisors effective 4 January. STAT
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6. Chief, PMU is currently recruiting for one Arab linguist and has initiated pre-employment processing for Russian linguist [] Efforts are also underway to recruit one Serbo-Croat linguist for Vienna Bureau and a Cambodian linguist for Bangkok Bureau. STAT



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Attachments

cc: Chief, Austria Bureau
Chief, Cologne Unit
Chief, Islamabad Unit
Chief, Okinawa Bureau

ATTACHMENT



Deputy Chief [redacted] cuts ribbon
at 12 January 1987 Internet Inaugural.

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[redacted] to his right;
[redacted] to his left.

Bureau log on-screen as Internet
patch-panel prepares to do its stuff.

